THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although the plot was allotted ten years back but its possession could not be taken as the same was under litigation. Subsequently, after the CGHS took possession of plot, the drawings were got approved from Municipal Corporation of Delhi where after it was handed over the CPWD for construction. The CPWD have informed that the tenders received were rejected as they were found to be on the higher side as compared to the prevailing rates in Delhi. The CPWD have again called for tenders which are in the process of finalisation.

(c) The CPWD have conveyed that construction of the building would be completed within 18 months from the date of award of contract.

Specialist Doctors in the Country

†1104. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of persons dependent on specialist doctors in our country,

(b) whether the number of doctors is sufficient in proportion to the increasing population in the country; and

(c) if not, the action plan formulated by Government to deal with it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The Government do not have specific information in this regard.

(b) and (c) The norm for availability of doctors to the population in the country has been recommended to be as 1:2000 by the Bhore Committee. As per the statistics worked out by the Medical Council of India, the availability of allopathic doctors is at present in the ratio of 1:1800. If the practitioners of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy are also taken into account the ratio of availability of doctors to the population will work out much favourably. Though there is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors produced, there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors between difference regions-in the country.

†Origlnal notice of the question was received in Hindi.